

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-14 were rejected under Section 112 as being indefinite. Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the directed beam of light produced by the light handle which is used to thereby align a surgical light. Therefore, the rejection under Section 112 should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-4, 6-8 and 9 were rejected under Section 103 as being unpatentable over Liu. As mentioned above, claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the directed beam of light is utilized to orient the surgical light. Accordingly, claim 1 requires a distinction between the surgical light and the directed beam of light. Furthermore, claim 1 has been amended to require that the handle portion is connected to the surgical light. In the Liu reference, it simply discloses a source of light disposed on an end of a writing instrument, and shows no structure associated with the invention therein for attachment to another source of light.

The Examiner has indicated allowability of claims 5, and 13-14 if rewritten to overcome the rejection under Section 112. Claim 5 separately claimed the illumination light, which is now set forth in claim 1 in terms of the handle portion being connected to the surgical/illumination light. Therefore, this rejection under Section 103 should be withdrawn.

Claims 10-12 were rejected under Section 103 as being unpatentable over Liu in view of Wiggins. Claims 10-12 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 and add other limitations. Therefore, this rejection should be withdrawn. Furthermore, Applicant notes that the Wiggins reference discloses use of a laser light which is disposed within the handle of the device thereby illuminating the entire rod of the device as opposed to producing a directed beam of light which projects the beam of light away from the handle. Therefore, despite the fact that Wiggins fails to

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cure the deficiencies in Liu, Wiggins also does not teach use of a directed beam of light which projects away from the handle portion as claimed.

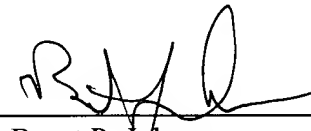
Claim 21 has been added to further claim the invention. Claim 21 is similar to claims 19 and 20, but uses means plus function language to cover the various claimed elements. For the same reasons as the Examiner sets forth in the Office Action as to allowability of claim 19, new claim 21 should be allowed.

Applicant has made a sincere effort to place the application in a condition for allowance; therefore, such favorable action is earnestly solicited. In the event that a telephone conversation would further prosecution and/or expedite allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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